



Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett
Phone (618) 658 – 4501
E-mail: sppcil@frontier.com
Website: www.stpaulvienna.org



Mission: Live Catholic teachings,
Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995
Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst
Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 10:00 am
Weekdays – Tue 11 am, Wed
6:30 pm & Friday, 12 pm

What Matters In the Gospel Reading, Jesus and his disciples have walked out of Jewish lands and all the way into Gentile territory. There is a lot of excitement about him among the Gentiles, too, not least because they know that he can heal people. One Gentile woman in particular cries out to him to heal her daughter.

He won't answer her, and she keeps crying out to him.

To have faith is to be one of the sheep of Israel and one of the children of Abraham.

The disciples of Jesus can't stand her and her noise, and they urge Jesus to send her away. From their point of view, she's just a woman, she isn't Jewish, and she doesn't look like an important person even among the Gentiles. So, from the point of view of the disciples, she is a person who does not matter. They want Jesus to get rid of her.

In response, Jesus tells his disciples, "I am sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

But Jesus is in Gentile territory as he says this; and he left Israelite territory to go there. If he isn't sent to the Gentiles, why go to their territory? If he was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, why not just send this Gentile woman away, as the disciples want him to do?

Because he doesn't send her away, she comes closer to him and pleads with him for help. In reply, he says to her one of the most insulting things he says to anyone: "it is not right to take the bread of the children and give it to the dogs."

How could she matter less than this?

The solution to the perplexity of this story comes in the final exchange between the two of them. Jesus' treatment of her elicits from her one of the most pertinent responses to Jesus anywhere: "even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters," she says. And Jesus loves her for that pertinence and the persistence behind it. "Great is your faith!" he says to her in praise.

But to have faith is to be one of the sheep of Israel and one of the children of Abraham. Gentile, female, or whatever else might make the disciples think that she is a person who doesn't matter, she has the one thing that really does matter in her cleaving to Jesus.

And so it is true that Jesus is sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. She, a Gentile woman who persists in her calling to him, is one of those sheep. When Jesus crosses into Gentile territory, it is for her. It is right to give the bread of life to her.

Eleonore Stump

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Aug 16	10:00 am	SP	Carolyn Barrett
Tues	Aug 18	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Aug 19	5:30 pm	SP	Waltz & Barrett Fam
Fri	Aug 21	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Aug 23	10:00 am	SP	Butch Balchunas

Birthdays

Aug 21 Myron Cole
Aug 22 Marilyn Beanland
Wyatt Ashford
Aug 23 Michael McMahan

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

St Paul..... Aug 16: Arlene Dueker **Aug 23:** Mitch Miller

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING August 9, 2020

SP: Envelope \$ 1085.00 (17), Loose 40.00, Bld & Maint 250.00

Total....\$1375.00

Thank you to all who have faithfully continued your envelope contributions.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun	Aug 16	St Paul Mass	10:00 am
(Recorded Mass available on facebook or St Paul Youtube channel by 4pm)			
Tue	Aug 18	Weekday Mass.....	11:00 am
Wed	Aug 19	Ministerial Alliance Mt/BDCCW Bd Mt.	12:00 pm
		Weekday Mass.....	5:30 pm
		Merged Parish Council Meeting.....	6:00 pm
Fri	Aug 21	Weekday Mass.....	12 pm
For non-standing reservations at Aug 23 mass, contact the rectory by phone or e-mail			
Sun	Aug 23	St Paul Mass	10:00 am
		125 th Anniversary Committee Mt.....	11:00 am

Remember in Prayer: All who are hospitalized and ill. Teachers, parents, children preparing to continue education in unusual circumstances.

SAVE THE DATE – Photography for new pictorial directory will be Oct 27, 28, & 29, 2-9 pm at St Paul Parish Center. Schedule for appointments will be held in Sept.



DRAWDOWN TICKETS The Drawdown fund raiser for Oct 10 will be modified this year to be held without a physical gathering for meal and drawing. A drawing will be aired over social media and prizes will be readily deliverable by pick-up and mail. Other aspects will remain the same with \$4,000 grand prize, 10 \$100 drawings and a prize for every participant. Tickets that may be shared with up to ten people will be \$100 and are available after mass this weekend, or from Matt Slife, Dolly Hopkins, Steve & Peggy Widowski, Joe & Marsha Nelson.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING for August will be held in the parish hall this Wednesday, Aug 19, 6 pm. Council members are asked to pick up agenda at this weekend mass. Meeting will include special presentation from another parish on challenges of maintaining parish vitality in absence of resident pastor.

COVID 19 REQUIREMENTS Illinois Phase 4 directives don't change church gatherings, since exception had been granted earlier for 50 or fewer people to gather indoors with proper social distancing. Reservations for Sunday are still required to assure no more than maximum limit is permitted, but also to implement contact notification in case of exposure to a positive case. Individual Sunday or Standing reservations may be made at the church office for those intending to participate weekly in mass.

RURAL KING CHURCH WEEK –St Paul has been reestablished as a registered recipient agency for 10% of purchases during the time of Aug 2-15. Log on to <http://www.Ruralking.com/churchweek/> select St Paul Catholic Church and enter sales receipt information. Receipts must be recorded by Sept 1.

125TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE MT will be held in the hall following Mass on August 23. Final review of plans for Sept 13 mass and reception.

SAVE THE DATE – 125TH MASS AND RECEPTION On Sept 13, 2 pm a mass with Bishop McGovern will be celebrated at St Paul. A reception with light refreshments, slide show, bookmark, historical displays, and availability of History Book will follow mass. Beside parishioners, former pastors, staff, parishioners and families will be welcomed. Due to Covid 19 requirements, we will be asking for reservations. Please pass word onto anyone you think might be interested. A reservation sheet will be posted for parishioners. History books will go on sale beginning August 30th (\$5.00 per book)

ANNUAL ADULT CHILD PROTECTION REFRESHER COURSE for 2020-21 is now available at <https://safeandsacred-diobelle.org> Anyone with regular contact with children in ministry who seeks to be certified may now participate in the initial Child Protection training online. Please contact Fr Tom for details.

THANK YOU..Faith Alive Volunteers who operated Thrift Store last week.

VOCATION CORNER – “As the son of Polish immigrants, I grew up in a good Catholic home. But it wasn't until I began participating in our parish youth group that I embraced the faith as my own and fell in love with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. A girl I was dating went to daily Mass, and I began going with her. It didn't take long for my focus to shift from her to what took place in the sanctuary - God coming down to be with his people. I found myself with thoughts like, ‘how would I preach on that Gospel’. I wrestled with the idea of becoming a priest often. . . . Following high school graduation, I entered seminary and eight years later I was ordained a priest. If God calls you to the priesthood, nothing on earth will give you greater joy.” Fr. Michael Niemczak; Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M. *Columbia Magazine* January, 2020

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 56:1,6-7; Psalm 67; Romans 11:13-15,29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

How big is the kingdom? Today's readings challenge us to widen the boundaries. Rather than see ourselves as elitist or exclusive, we imagine the possibilities that God imagines. We are building bridges rather than castles.

The prophet we call Third Isaiah (chapters 56-66) wrote today's passage some 500 years before Christ. He says that God's salvation is near, and he describes the goodness of God's dwelling. Those who had been rejected are now full-fledged members of God's community.

Paul revels in the divine paradox: The Jewish rejection of the Christian message has meant salvation for the Gentiles. Paul insists that God shows mercy to all, and Paul glories in his mission to the Gentiles. Paul imagines the all-inclusive nature of God's kingdom.

Matthew's gospel passage shows Jesus in contact with a Gentile for a second time (see also 8:5-13). The evangelist elaborates the good news -- that qualification for discipleship is not of ethnic origin but a persistent faith in Jesus. Matthew foreshadows that moment at gospel's end when Jesus will command the eleven: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (28:19). Matthew began in the same way: with the wise men who anticipated the Church's mission to the Gentiles (Matthew 2:1-12).

Baptism commissions the Christian to share the message of Jesus of Nazareth. Rather than being elitist, the Christian reflects the presence of Jesus through word and action to all the world.

Christians heal division and thus build bridges.

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 16 August 2020

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7. Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8. Romans 11:13-15, 29-32. Matthew 15:21-28.

Kyrie, Eleison. Isaiah reminds us today, in **our** time of trouble: Observe what is right, do what is just. Even with outsiders. Jesus, today, is in lands foreign to the People of Israel. Although he first ignores her, he helps the foreign woman calling to him in her need. Kyrie, eleison. He hears and acts. The Lord does have mercy.

- Who are on the outs with me; how can I show them kindness?
- How will I act in right and just ways this week?
- Because God constantly shows mercy to me, how will I be merciful?

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – 23 August 2020

Isaiah 22:19-23. Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8. Romans 11:33-36. Matthew 16:13-20.